DETAILED ACTION

This final office action is in response to amendments filed on 12/27/07.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Johnson et al., US Patent no. 6,580,950 [Johnson], in view of Oishi, US Patent no. 5,958,059.

Regarding claim 1, Johnson discloses a gateway device [Control Unit in Figure 2 and unit comprising Microprocessor, Dial Modem, DSL or Cable Modem and X10 Interface in Figure 5] that receives and transmits data between different networks [Global Computer Network and X10 Network in Figure 5], the gateway device comprising:

an information processor including a remote control data setting controller to set remote control data that controls operation of an apparatus to be remote controlled [Microprocessor in Figure 5]; and

a gateway card [Dial Modem, DSL or Cable Modem and X10 Interface in Figure 5], the gateway card including

a receiving unit [Dial Modem, DSL or Cable Modem in Figure 5] that receives from a plurality of remote control devices [Data Center or Web Browser on User Computer, Figures 1

and 5] remote control data to be set to either one of apparatuses [X10 Lights and X10 Thermostats in Figure 5] to be remote controlled and a remote control request [column 4, lines 55-67 and column 5, lines 29-52]; and

a data setting unit [X10 Interface in Figure 5] that makes the information processor set the remote control data to the apparatus to be remote controlled [column 5, lines 29-52].

Johnson does not disclose changing a power mode of the information processor from a power-saving mode to a normal power mode when the receiving unit receives the remote control request, and changing the power mode from the normal power mode to the power-saving mode when the setting of in the remote control data to apparatus to be remote controlled is complete. Oishi discloses changing a power mode of an information processor [main control unit] from a power-saving mode to a normal power mode when a receiving unit [I/F unit] receives a remote control request [request signal from PC, column 3, lines 5-16 and Figure 1], and changing the power mode from the normal power mode to the power-saving mode when the setting of the remote control data is complete [column 5, lines 37-41]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the Oishi power control teachings to the information processor in the Johnson gateway device in order to reduce the amount of unnecessary power consumption of the gateway card when no remote signals are being sent to the gateway card [Oishi, column 1, lines 26-30].

Regarding claim 3, Johnson further discloses that the data setting unit identifies one apparatus to be remote controlled from among a plurality of apparatuses from information contained in the remote control data, and makes the information processor set the remote control data to the identified apparatus [column 5, lines 40-52].

Regarding claim 4, Johnson discloses a gateway control method applied to a gateway card [Dial Modem, DSL or Cable Modem and X10 Interface in Figure 5] that is connected to an information processor [Microprocessor in Figure 5] and that receives and transmits data between different networks [Global Computer Network and X10 Network in Figure 5], the gateway control method comprising:

receiving from a plurality of remote control devices [Data Center or Web Browser on User Computer, Figures 1 and 5] remote control data to be set to either one of apparatuses to be remote controlled [X10 Lights and X10 Thermstat in Figure 5] and a remote control request [column 4, lines 55-67 and column 5, lines 29-52]; and

making the information processor set the remote control data to the apparatus to be remote controlled [column 5, lines 29-52].

Johnson does not disclose changing a power mode of the information processor from a power-saving mode to a normal power mode when the receiving unit receives the remote control request, and changing the power mode from the normal power mode to the power-saving mode when the setting of in the remote control data to apparatus to be remote controlled is complete. Oishi discloses changing a power mode of an information processor [main control unit] from a power-saving mode to a normal power mode when a receiving unit [I/F unit] receives a remote control request [request signal from PC, column 3, lines 5-16 and Figure 1], and changing the power mode from the normal power mode to the power-saving mode when the setting of the remote control data is complete [column 5, lines 37-41]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the Oishi power control teachings into the Johnson gateway device in order to reduce the amount of unnecessary power consumption of the

information processor in the gateway device when no remote signals are being sent to the gateway device [Oishi, column 1, lines 26-30].

Regarding claim 6, Johnson further discloses identifying one apparatus to be remote controlled from among a plurality of apparatuses from information contained in the remote control data, and making the information processor set the remote control data to the identified apparatus. [column 5, lines 40-52].

Regarding claim 7, Johnson discloses a computer program that is applied to a gateway card [Dial Modem, DSL or Cable Modem and X10 Interface in Figure 5] that is connected to an information processor [Microprocessor in Figure 5] and that receives and transmits data between different networks [Global Computer Network and X10 Network in Figure 5], the gateway control method comprising:

receiving from a plurality of remote control devices [Data Center or Web Browser on User Computer, Figures 1 and 5] remote control data to be set to either one of apparatuses [X10 Lights and X10 Thermostat in Figure 5] to be remote controlled and a remote control request [column 4, lines 55-67 and column 5, lines 29-52]; and

making the information processor set the remote control data to the apparatus to be remote controlled [column 5, lines 29-52].

Johnson does not disclose changing a power mode of the information processor from a power-saving mode to a normal power mode when the receiving unit receives the remote control request, and changing the power mode from the normal power mode to the power-saving mode when the setting of in the remote control data to apparatus to be remote controlled is complete. Oishi discloses changing a power mode of an information processor [main control unit] from a

power-saving mode to a normal power mode when a receiving unit [I/F unit] receives a remote control request [request signal from PC, column 3, lines 5-16 and Figure 1], and changing the power mode from the normal power mode to the power-saving mode when the setting of the remote control data is complete [column 5, lines 37-41]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the Oishi power control teachings into the Johnson gateway device in order to reduce the amount of unnecessary power consumption of the information processor in the gateway device when no remote signals are being sent to the gateway device [Oishi, column 1, lines 26-30].

Regarding claim 9, Johnson further discloses identifying one apparatus to be remote controlled from among a plurality of apparatuses from information contained in the remote control data, and making the information processor set the remote control data to the identified apparatus. [column 5, lines 40-52].

Regarding claim 10, Johnson discloses a gateway apparatus [Control Unit in Figures 2 and 3] having an information processor [Microprocessor in Figure 5] and a gateway section [Dial Modem, DSL or Cable Modem and X10 Interface in Figure 5] that is connected to the information processor and that receives and transmits data between different networks [Global Computer Network and X10 Network in Figure 5], wherein the gateway section includes

a receiving unit [Dial Modem, DSL or Cable Modem in Figure 5] that receives from a plurality of remote control devices [Data Center or Web Browser on User Computer, Figures 1 and 5] remote control data to be set to either one of apparatuses [X10 Lights and X10 Thermostat in Figure 5] to be remote controlled and a remote control request [column 4, lines 55-67 and column 5, lines 29-52]; and

a data setting unit [X10 Interface in Figure 5] that makes the information processor set the remote control data to the apparatus to be remote controlled [column 5, lines 29-52].

Johnson does not disclose changing a power mode of the information processor from a power-saving mode to a normal power mode when the receiving unit receives the remote control request, and changing the power mode from the normal power mode to the power-saving mode when the setting of in the remote control data to apparatus to be remote controlled is complete. Oishi discloses changing a power mode of an information processor [main control unit] from a power-saving mode to a normal power mode when a receiving unit [I/F unit] receives a remote control request [request signal from PC, column 3, lines 5-16 and Figure 1], and changing the power mode from the normal power mode to the power-saving mode when the setting of the remote control data is complete [column 5, lines 37-41]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the Oishi power control teachings into the Johnson gateway device in order to reduce the amount of unnecessary power consumption of the information processor in the gateway device when no remote signals are being sent to the gateway device [Oishi, column 1, lines 26-30].

Regarding claim 12, Johnson further discloses that the data setting unit identifies one apparatus to be remote controlled from among a plurality of apparatuses from information contained in the remote control data, and makes the information processor set the remote control data to the identified apparatus [column 5, lines 40-52].

Regarding claim 13, Johnson discloses a gateway control method applied to a gateway apparatus [Control Unit in Figures 2 and 3] that has an information processor [Microprocessor in Figure 5] and a gateway section [Dial Modem, DSL or Cable Modem and X10 Interface in

Figure 5] that is connected to the information processor and that receives and transmits data between different networks [Global Computer Network and X10 Network in Figure 5], the gateway section executing:

receiving from a plurality of remote control devices [Data Center or Web Browser on User Computer, Figures 1 and 5] remote control data to be set to either one of apparatues to be remote controlled [X10 Lights and Thermostat in Figure 5] and a remote control request [column 4, lines 55-67 and column 5, lines 29-52];

making the information processor set the remote control data to the apparatus to be remote controlled [column 5, lines 29-52].

Johnson does not disclose changing a power mode of the information processor from a power-saving mode to a normal power mode when the receiving unit receives the remote control request, and changing the power mode from the normal power mode to the power-saving mode when the setting of in the remote control data to apparatus to be remote controlled is complete. Oishi discloses changing a power mode of an information processor [main control unit] from a power-saving mode to a normal power mode when a receiving unit [I/F unit] receives a remote control request [request signal from PC, column 3, lines 5-16 and Figure 1], and changing the power mode from the normal power mode to the power-saving mode when the setting of the remote control data is complete [column 5, lines 37-41]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the Oishi power control teachings into the Johnson gateway device in order to reduce the amount of unnecessary power consumption of the information processor in the gateway device when no remote signals are being sent to the gateway device [Oishi, column 1, lines 26-30].

Regarding claim 15, Johnson further discloses identifying one apparatus to be remote controlled from among a plurality of apparatuses from information contained in the remote control data, and making the information processor set the remote control data to the identified apparatus. [column 5, lines 40-52].

Regarding claim 16, Johnson discloses a computer program applied to a gateway apparatus [Control Unit in Figures 2 and 3] that has an information processor [Microprocessor in Figure 5] and a gateway section [Dial Modem, DSL or Cable Modem and X10 Interface in Figure 5] that is connected to the information processor and that receives and transmits data between different networks [Global Computer Network and X10 Network in Figure 5], wherein the gateway section executes a method comprising:

receiving from a plurality of remote control devices [Data Center or Web Browser on User Computer, Figures 1 and 5] remote control data to be set to eother one of apparatuses to be remote controlled [X10 Lights and X10 Thermostat in Figure 5] and a remote control request [column 4, lines 55-67 and column 5, lines 29-52];

making the information processor set the remote control data to the apparatus to be remote controlled [column 5, lines 29-52].

Johnson does not disclose changing a power mode of the information processor from a power-saving mode to a normal power mode when the receiving unit receives the remote control request, and changing the power mode from the normal power mode to the power-saving mode when the setting of in the remote control data to apparatus to be remote controlled is complete. Oishi discloses changing a power mode of an information processor [main control unit] from a power-saving mode to a normal power mode when a receiving unit [I/F unit] receives a remote

control request [request signal from PC, column 3, lines 5-16 and Figure 1], and changing the power mode from the normal power mode to the power-saving mode when the setting of the remote control data is complete [column 5, lines 37-41]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the Oishi power control teachings into the Johnson gateway device in order to reduce the amount of unnecessary power consumption of the information processor in the gateway device when no remote signals are being sent to the gateway device [Oishi, column 1, lines 26-30].

Regarding claim 18, Johnson further discloses identifying one apparatus to be remote controlled from among a plurality of apparatuses from information contained in the remote control data, and making the information processor set the remote control data to the identified apparatus. [column 5, lines 40-52].

Claims 2, 5, 8, 11, 14, 17 and 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Johnson et al., US Patent no. 6,580,950 [Johnson] and Oishi, US Patent no. 5,958,059, in view of Hilt, US Patent no. 6,738,820.

Johnson and Oishi, as described above, disclose a gateway card and control method for a gateway card. Specifically, Johnson discloses that the remote controlled apparatus [lighting controls] may also send status information to the remote control device [column 5, lines 45-49]. Therefore a user at the remote control device could send a command to the lighting controls to turn on/off the lights and then receive status information from the lighting controls indicating if the lights were in fact turned on/off. Johnson does not disclose that the status information is sent to the remote control device via email. Hilt discloses a gateway comprising an email module

that sends emails containing status information to a remote control device [column 3, line 65 – column 4, line 9 and column 4, lines 30-34]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the Johnson and Oishi gateway card to include an email module for communicating status email messages from the controlled apparatus to the remote controlling device. One would be motivated to use email for communication between the gateway and the remote controlling device because email services are widely available to a variety of computing devices [Hilt, column 2, line 64 – column 3, line 9].

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 12/27/07 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that the combination of Johnson and Oishi would result in a system that saves power in individual devices, but does not save power in the gateway. Examiner disagrees. Oishi is relied on to disclose a method of saving power in a device with a processing unit [Main Control Unit in Figure 1] and an interface [I/F Unit in Figure 1] for communicating with other devices. Specifically, the main control unit is placed in a power-saving state when no signals are received at the I/F unit from other devices [column 5, lines 37-41]. The main control unit is returned to a normal power mode when a signal is received at the I/F unit from other devices [column 5, lines 37-41]. One of ordinary skill in the art would have understood that the Oishi power saving method may be applied to any device which comprises a processing unit and an interface device for receiving signals from other devices. As described above, the gateway device in Johnson comprises a processing device [Microprocessor] and an interface unit for

receiving signals from other devices [Dial Modem, DSL or Cable Modem and X10 Interface in Figure 5]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to apply the Oishi power saving method to the Johnson gateway device in order to reduce the amount of unnecessary power consumption of the information processor in the gateway device when no remote signals are being sent to the gateway device [Oishi, column 1, lines 26-30]. Therefore, the combination of Johnson and Oishi would result in a system that saves power in the gateway.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to PAUL B. YANCHUS III whose telephone number is (571)272-3678. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs 8:00-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rehana Perveen can be reached on (571) 272-3676. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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April 13, 2008

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